

April 11, 2005

The Honorable Vincent P. Meconi  
Herman Holloway Campus  
1901 N. DuPont Hwy.  
New Castle, DE 19720

Dear Secretary Meconi:

I write on behalf of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities regarding the Community-Based Attendant Services Act and the personal attendant services (PAS) program. SCPD serves as the advisory council to the PAS program (Title 16 Del.C. §9406). Council believes that the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD), in collaboration with Easter Seals, operates a successful program which enjoys a terrific “track record” as reflected in the latest consumer satisfaction surveys. In addition, Council recently collaborated with DSAAPD on the PAS Service Specifications and was certainly pleased that the Division incorporated many of SCPDs recommendations.

However, Council is concerned that the program still does not appear to serve people with mental illness whereas the statute contemplates serving this population [Title 16 Del.C. §9403(5)]. Council respectfully requests that the Department revisit this issue since it could negatively affect the implementation of the MFP program. In addition, there is approximately \$70,000 (before expansion of the program in July 2008) being used by DDDS for respite care which could be utilized to provide PAS to individuals with mental illness. SCPD believes the Legislature would expect both physical and mental disabilities to be served in the program consistent with the statute.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact me with your predispositions.

Sincerely,

Daniese McMullin-Powell Chairperson  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

cc: Mr. Guy Perrotti  
Ms. Marianne Smith  
Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council

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